

Board Highlights: December 8, 2017

Sustainability Advisory Group Update

Sustainability Advisory Group met on December 1 to discuss Ontario Pork's submissions into government consultations on the draft Ontario's Lake Erie Domestic Action Plan and Ontario's Soil Health Strategy. The feedback from the group regarding the draft Domestic Action Plan was also included in the Grow Ontario Together submission to the government. Grow Ontario Together is a collaboration of agriculture organizations that recognize the need to work together – with each other, with the public, with environmentalists, with municipalities, concerned citizens and with governments.

The Sustainability Advisory Group members continue to identify opportunities under two policies that will be rolled out by the provincial government in the coming months: a program to incent energy use reductions in barn, greenhouses and grain dryers; and a voluntary carbon offset program. Ontario Pork's staff will use group's suggestions to develop recommendations to the Board of Directors.

Resolutions Committee

In preparation for the resolutions session at the Ontario Pork AGM, the Resolutions committee reviewed and approved the Resolutions Process document which outlines resolutions submission steps, procedures and timelines. The Resolutions Process document will be circulated to Presidents and Secretaries of local pork producers' associations at the upcoming meeting on December 12, 2017.

Ontario Pork Industry Advocacy Committee Update

The ad-hoc Ontario Pork Industry Advocacy committee, established by the Board of Directors earlier this year, held its second meeting on December 4, 2017. This industry-wide committee was tasked to develop a pro-active strategy to educate society about the role modern animal agriculture plays in providing a safe, affordable, high-quality pork products. An update on this work will be provided at the local pork producers' associations meeting in January and February 2018.

Ontario Pork's Reception at Queen's Park

On November 28, 2017, Ontario Pork hosted its annual MPP Reception at Queens Park in Toronto, Ontario. The event provides an excellent opportunity for Board members to discuss pork producers' concerns and interests with provincial policy-makers. This year's reception was attended by approximately 100 guests, which included MPPs and their staff members, Ontario Pork Board Members. Maaïke Campbell and Tara Terpstra, the 2016-17 Ontario Pork Leadership Training participants also attended the event. Eric Schwindt, Chair of Ontario Pork provided an update on Ontario Pork's social responsibility journey, partnership with the government, and priority areas for the provincial pork industry such as competitiveness, trade and market access. Jeff Leal, Ontario's Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Toby Barrett, MPP for Haldimand-Norfolk and ag critic for the PC party, and John Vanthof, MPP for Timiskaming-Cochrane and ag critic for the NDP party, also delivered remarks.